



Child Care

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The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is responsible for the regulation of out of home child care environments and the administration of the publicly-funded child care program. Child Care assistance is provided to eligible parents to keep Ohio's families engaged in work and training efforts, while on the road to self-sufficiency. Child care is the stabilizing force that contributes to skilled, healthy Ohioans, successful businesses and strong communities.

Subsidized Child Care

Subsidized child care is provided for eligible families to support the parents' work and training efforts. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services develops and issues regulations to govern the program. Eligibility is determined by county departments of job and family services. Child care assistance reimbursements are made available through the county agencies and cover partial or full costs for services based on the market rate. Ohio Department of Job and Family Services tracks utilization and cost factors associated with subsidized child care, allocates funds for quality initiatives, monitors community programs for fiscal and operational compliance, and provides technical assistance and support to professionals and partners. Approximately 84,000 children are served by Ohio's subsidized child care programs each month.

Who can get child care assistance?

Families whose income is at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty guideline, can receive payment for all or part of their monthly child care expenses. Providers receive payments from county departments of job and family services so parents may work or attend approved school or training activities. Subsidies can only be used in one of Ohio's regulated child care environments.

How often is eligibility determined?

Ohio's 88 county departments of job and family services determine eligibility. After initial eligibility is determined, a review is conducted every six months to assess any income changes; and every 12 months to verify continued eligibility.

Where are child care services provided?

Child care services are provided for parents or families of children being cared for in certified homes and licensed child care centers. County departments of job and family services agencies certify private homes caring for six or fewer children. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services inspects and licenses child care centers, child day camps and private homes caring for seven or more children. Child care licensing regulations and standards are developed and issued by the state in order to assure that children are cared for in safe, healthy and developmentally appropriate environments. The Ohio Administrative Code contains the specific regulations governing the licensing and operation of child care programs. Licensing staff investigate complaints of noncompliance and allegations of child care programs which are not certified or licensed and provide training and consultation regarding quality improvement.

For more information, contact the county department of job and family services.